

weather report



40°
noon
Monday

Today

- Sunset, 5:36 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 6:23 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 35 degrees
- Humidity 67 percent
- Sky cloudy
- Winds north 33 to 40 mph
- Barometer 29.89 inches and steady
- Record High today 71° (1896)
- Record Low today -6° (1960)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 63°
- Low Sunday 37°
- Precipitation none
- This month 0.49
- Year to date 0.59
- Below normal 0.23 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 44, breezy with winds out of the north 10-20 mph and a low around 23. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 54, winds out the northwest at 5 to 10 mph changing to the south and a low around 27.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow or rain at night, a high near 58 and a low around 27.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$10.97 bushel
- Posted county price — \$10.60
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$5.01 bushel
- Posted county price — \$4.93
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$4.76 bushel
- Soybeans — \$12.97 bushel
- Posted county price — \$12.94
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Students honored

Senior Samantha Raymer lit a candle representing leadership in the induction ceremony for 21 new members of Goodland High School National Honor Society on Tuesday night at the high school auditorium. See story, photos on Page 3.

Farmer shipping top state issue

By Tom Betz

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A plan to require farmers to comply with federal trucking regulations has been squashed — at least for a time — Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer about 20 citizens at a meeting at Hank's Cafe early Saturday.

Sen. Ostmeyer (R-Grinnell) and Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) made Goodland the first stop on a day of "town hall" meetings across the 40th Senate District.

Ostmeyer said the Kansas Corporation had backed down on a proposal to require all farmers hauling grain or animals to follow federal trucking safety rules.

"We tried to meet with the state people two weeks ago and their attorney would not even let us talk," he said. "Several senators and I introduced a bill to change the regulations, and suddenly the state agency people were willing to agree to modifying their plans."

Morrison said sometimes you just have to introduce a bill to get something to happen, and that was the case with the trucking regulations.

Ostmeyer said he knows that for the counties along the boarder, some farmers might have problems

crossing state lines. He said he did not think it would be a big deal as long as the farmer was not hauling anything for hire.

"If you are hauling for hire, you are already under the regulations," he said.

Morrison said with the number of issues coming up in the legislative session this year and a big controversy over the building of two proposed power plants at Holcomb, he thinks it might be a long session.

"I think we will get the power plant bill done," he said, "but it might have to be in a wrap-up session."

Morrison encouraged citizens to attend a Kansas Department of Health and Environment air permit hearing in Goodland on Tuesday to show support for the power plant being built by Goodland Energy Resources five miles west of town.

"What you have done here with health care and the genius of the power plant and ethanol plant is what will make a difference in the future," Morrison said.

He congratulated the Goodland Regional Medical Center and hospital Administrator Jay Jolly for being part of the University of Kansas' Midwest Cancer Alliance. He said



Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Jim Morrison met with Sherman County citizens early Saturday morning at Hank's Cafe to talk about the legislative session and answer questions.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

that is a giant step to making regional medicine a reality in northwest Kansas.

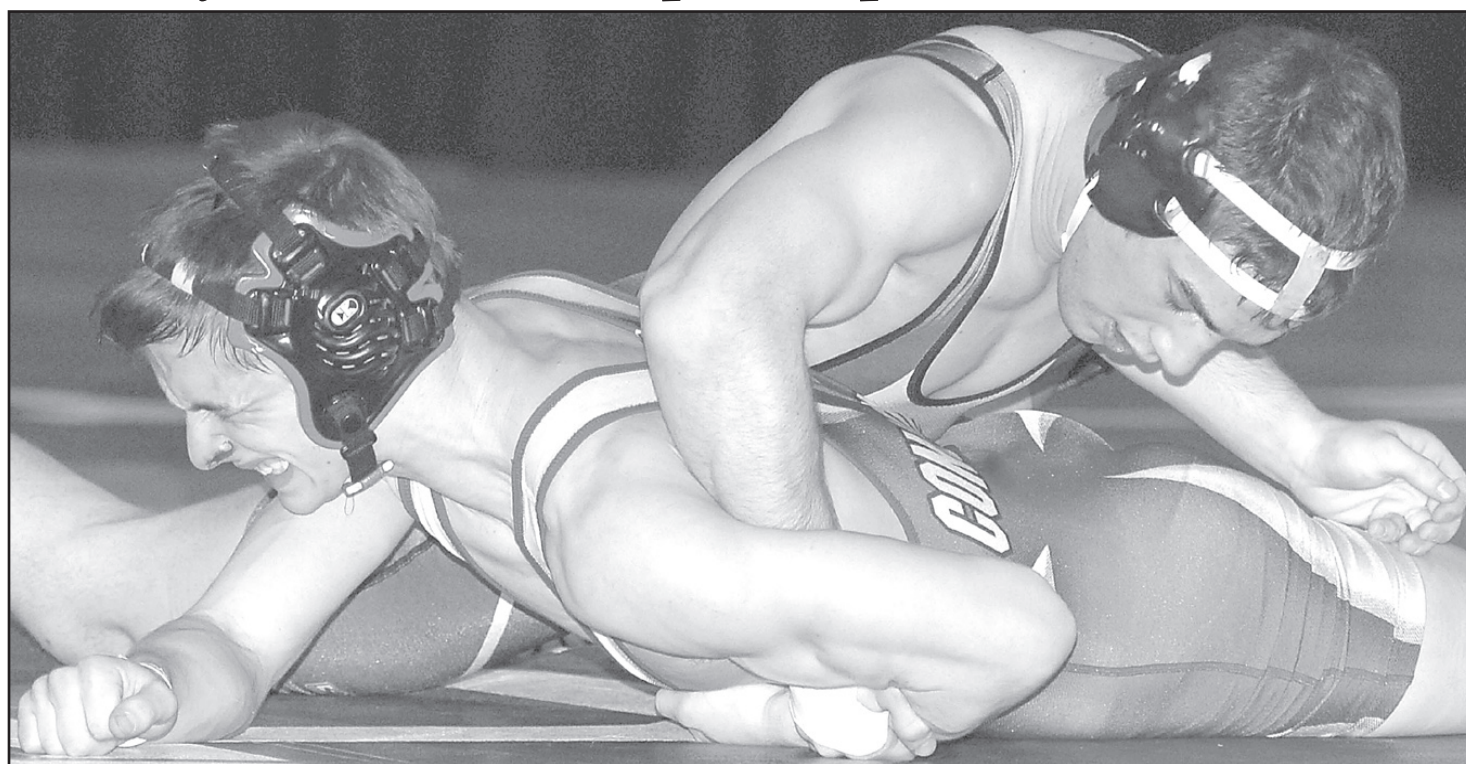
Morrison said the design of the

Goodland power plant and combining it with new technology to reduce the emissions is the kind of project that the state needs to support. He

said the size of the plant makes it easier to control the emissions, and

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Cowboy wins state championship



Senior A.J. Stephens wrapped up his high school wrestling career Saturday with 9-3 win in a bloody battle with Levi Whitley of Concordia in the state championships at Salina, making Stephens the champion at 140 pounds. See story, photos on Page 12.

Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

Coalition reviews health fair, plans for 'town hall meeting'

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Community Partnership for Prevention and Education talked about the success of the Sherman County Health Fair and upcoming plans for a "town hall meeting" to fight teen drinking at its meeting Thursday.

Organizers reported 706 blood profiles done for the Health Fair this year, said Ladona Frerichs, agent assistant for the Sunflower Extension District, and one of the health fair planners. More than 400 people signed in, she said, but some who were there didn't.

There was a big crowd, said Cris Riebel, partnership treasurer, but not as many stopped at the partnership's booth to ask questions as last year.

That depended on where you were, Frerichs said, adding that the extension booth had a lot of visitors. Everything they had to give out was taken, she said.

Riebel said the partnership gave out items discouraging teen drinking, and they were all taken as well, but traffic seemed to be moving fast.

Both said that the Goodland Activities Center seemed a bit crowded during the fair and it may need to be arranged differently in the future. The dance performances drew such a crowd, Frerichs said, that traffic into the building was blocked, leaving people waiting by the doors.

The dance performances drew a lot of people to the fair, she said, but they may have to arrange them differently next year. She said the

dance classes might each perform separately, for example, so there aren't as many people there at once.

The traffic flow was better for the doctors, though, she said, adding that Tina Goodwin is doing a wonderful job as the new director of marketing and volunteer services at the hospital. It was her first year for the fair, Frerichs said, and the first year for Chris Thompson, new activities center director.

Some of the partnership members wondered if the fair could be moved into the Max Jones Fieldhouse to give it more room. The idea of the activities center being involved, Frerichs said,

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Sheriff asks for guidance on stray dog costs

By Tom Betz

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The Kansas Highway Patrol picked up an injured dog on I-70 and took it to the veterinarian, and Sheriff Kevin Butts asked county commissioners who was going to pay the bill for saving it and what to do the next time.

Butts told the commissioners at a meeting on Feb. 12 dispatch called him with a question from Sandy Rodgers, a board member of the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, about the dog and its treatment.

Butts said a trooper found the injured dog out on I-70 and took it to the Prairieland Animal Clinic, where it was treated. Butts said the

bill came to about \$140.

Butts said dispatcher told him Rodgers was asking if the county was going to pay the bill.

"This is the first time this has come up since I have been in office," Butts said. "I am here to find out what you want to do in the future."

The sheriff said he talked to Rodgers about the bill and she did not feel the volunteer-run animal shelter should have to cover the cost.

The sheriff said he did not know what happened to the dog.

Rodgers said unfortunately the dog died while Dr. Gary Smith was trying to treat it. She said she felt the state trooper did the right thing, and that if the dog had lived she

thought the animal shelter would have gotten donations to pay for the treatment.

"I think everyone did the right thing in this case," she said. "I think it would be good if this happens again to have the sheriff and possibly me or someone from the animal shelter involved in the decision of what to do."

"I think the sheriff was sort of left out of the process this time."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he thought if a dog is picked up and taken to the veterinarian, the sheriff's office should ask for an estimate of how much it is going to cost and then decide whether it should be treated or put down. He

said he thought the county should pay the bill this time out of the general fund.

Butts said he could see paying for treatment if the cost is not too high and if there is a legal reason to keep the dog.

In other business, the commissioners

• Delayed action on a bid for fire alarms for the courthouse, Southwest Bell building and county health department. The commissioners have a bid from a WaKeeney firm, but S&T Communications had asked to bid also.

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Legislators answer citizen questions

By Tom Betz

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Citizens had some questions for Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Jim Morrison about bills and issues being debated in Topeka this year at a meeting Saturday morning at Hank's Cafe.

Dick Liess of Western State Bank asked about a bill dealing with immigration and hiring illegals.

Ostmeyer said the bill should be heard next week, and that it would put more pressure on businesses not to hire aliens.

He said he did not know how the bill was going to go, but said he was told that if it is passed, the cost of jobs such as roofing might jump because of a lack of labor.

"I know this puts a burden on our schools," Ostmeyer said. "We have to find a solution, and know that businesses will have to be part of it."

Morrison handed out a chart of state government, saying his state agency review commission will begin looking at ways to streamline and combine some departments to reduce the fluff and waste.

He said the committee will decide in the next week which state agency will be the first to go through the process. He said the commission can recommend an agency be abolished without requiring any legislation or could recommend the agency continue with legislative changes.

"This will give us the opportunity to get our hands around each agency," Morrison said, "and give us a chance to get to the stupid rules."

Morrison said one of the purposes of the review is to undo some of the recent centralization of state agencies. He said he believes that with the advances in technology this can be accomplished.

Ostmeyer was asked about a city-county consolidation bill that has been passed in the Senate and may pass the House.

He said he is getting some opposition, but that most of it is from the larger counties where rural people are afraid that consolidation would cost them.

"Everyone talks about Wyandotte County that did this about 10 years ago," Ostmeyer said. "Their taxes have not gone down."

"Greeley County is working through this, and when they came to the legislature, they had exactly what they wanted in the bill."

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